

CLAIM AMENDMENTS

1 1 (currently amended): A composite, metal and plastic pipe assembly, comprising: first
2 and second metal ~~pipe sections~~ pipes having respective first and second ends; a first ~~spigot~~
3 plastic cuff formed along the periphery of the first pipe end and embedding the first pipe
4 end therein; ~~[[and]]~~ a second ~~[[bell]]~~ plastic cuff formed along the periphery of the second
5 pipe end~~[[,]]~~the first and second cuffs and embedding the second pipe end therein; the first
6 cuff forming a spigot member extending around the circumference of the first pipe end and
7 the second cuff forming a bell member extending around the circumference of the second
8 pipe end; and the spigot member of the first cuff being inserted into the bell member of the
9 second cuff, thereby forming a mating bell and spigot joint with the first, spigot cuff
10 inserted into and joined to the second, bell cuff coupling around the circumference of the
11 first and second pipe ends.

1 2 (currently amended): Components for a composite metal and plastic pipe assembly,
2 comprising: first and second ~~pipe sections~~ metal pipes having respective first and second
3 ends; a ~~[[first]]~~ plastic spigot cuff formed along the ~~periphery~~ circumference of the first
4 pipe end and embedding the first pipe end therein, and a second plastic bell cuff formed
5 along the ~~periphery~~ circumference of the second pipe end and embedding the second pipe
6 end therein, the sizes of the ~~first and second~~ bell and spigot cuffs being adapted for
7 inserting the spigot cuff into the bell cuff forming a bell and spigot joint coupling between
8 the spigot cuff and the bell cuff and between the first metal pipe and the second metal pipe
9 when the [[first,]] spigot cuff is inserted into the second bell cuff.

1 3 (new): The pipe assembly of claim 1, further comprising: a plastic coating formed
2 on the end of the first pipe; a plastic coating formed on the end of the second pipe; a first
3 plastic weld joining the first plastic cuff to the plastic coating on the end of the first pipe;
4 and a second plastic weld joining the second plastic cuff to the plastic coating on the end of
5 the second pipe

1 4 (new): The pipe assembly of claim 1, the first plastic cuff having a metal core
2 embedded therein and the second plastic cuff having a metal core embedded therein.

1 5 (new): A method for adapting first and second pipes for coupling, comprising:
2 molding a first plastic cuff around the circumference of an end of a first pipe, with the end
3 of the first pipe embedded in the first plastic cuff and the first plastic cuff forming a spigot
4 member extending around the circumference of the first pipe end; and molding a second
5 plastic cuff around the circumference of an end of a second pipe, with the end of the
6 second pipe embedded in the second plastic cuff and the second plastic cuff forming a bell
7 member extending around the circumference of the second pipe end.